

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Office Action dated December 26, 2007 (hereinafter Office Action) have been considered but are believed to be improper. Reconsideration of the pending claims and allowance of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully maintains the traversal of each of the prior art rejections (§§ 102(b) and 103(a)) based at least in part on the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,238 to Chase, Jr. (hereinafter “Chase”) because Chase alone, or in combination, does not teach each of the claimed limitations. Specifically, Chase does not teach or suggest the use of role information which indicates whether a device should serve as a synchronization client or a sync server, as claimed in each of the independent claims. Contrary to the assertion at page two of the Office Action that a synchronization client initiates a synchronization session, it is known that a synchronization server may also trigger a synchronization session (*e.g.*, Ch. 8 “Server Alerted Sync” in the cited SyncML Sync protocol). As explained in the instant Specification (*e.g.*, paragraphs [0005] and [0014]) and in the cited SyncML Sync protocol, a sync server performs specific tasks such as maintenance of mapping tables of identifiers for data items. Further, contrary to the asserted broad interpretation of the term “server” in the Advisory Action, the claims specifically recite that role information includes a sync server, which is defined in paragraph [0011] of the Specification in accordance with MPEP § 2111.01. Chase does not teach or suggest any such synchronization architecture having specified roles of a client and a sync server. Rather, Chase is directed to a simple system of a device (either handheld or desktop computer) transmitting a modified packet to another device in response to modification of the packet without definition of a client or sync server role. While the asserted modified bit indicates which device initiates a synchronization session in Chase, it does not indicate any role information, as claimed. Without a presentation of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the prior art rejections are improper.

However, without acquiescing to characterizations of the asserted art, Applicant’s claimed subject matter, or to the applications of the asserted art or combinations thereof to

Applicant's claimed subject matter, and in an effort to facilitate prosecution, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to indicate that the role information is defined on the basis of a first synchronization session. Support for these changes may be found in the Specification, for example, at paragraphs [0017] and [0024]; therefore, the changes do not introduce new matter. Each of the pending claims is further believed to be patentable over the asserted references for the additional reasons set forth below.

In Chase, the asserted modified bit information is used in a single synchronization operation to update another device (Fig. 10). There is no teaching or suggestion that role information stored on the basis of a first synchronization session would determine the role of a device in a second synchronization session. Rather, in Chase, the asserted role information would change in each update operation dependent upon which device detects modified data. Thus, Chase does not teach storing role information specific to synchronization with a second device such that a device selects the same role in subsequent synchronization sessions with that device based on the stored information. Also, Chase does not teach that the asserted role information is defined based on a first synchronization session since the asserted modified bit information is stored in response to writing to memory, separate from synchronization between devices. Without a presentation of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the prior art rejections would be improper, and Applicant accordingly requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In addition, dependent Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17-20, 22, 25, 27, 28 and 30 depend from independent Claims 1, 11, 13, 16 and 23, respectively, and also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Chase. While Applicant does not acquiesce to the particular rejection to these dependent claims, the rejection is also improper for the reasons discussed above in connection with the independent claims. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the independent claims and any intervening claims, and recite additional features which further distinguish them from the cited reference. Therefore, the rejection of dependent Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17-20, 22, 25, 27, 28 and 30 is improper. Applicant accordingly requests that the § 102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the § 103(a) rejections of the various dependent claims, Applicant further traverses because the teachings of “SyncML Sync Protocol, version 1.1.1”, U.S. Patent No. 6,330,618 to Hawkins *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,272,545 to Flanagan *et al.*, and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0161769 by Sutinen *et al.* do not overcome the above-discussed deficiencies in Chase and further do not teach the asserted limitations. For example, contrary to the assertions in the Office Action Flanagan *et al.* do not teach role information associated with an identifier, as claimed. The identifiers of Flanagan *et al.* make no reference to role information indicating whether a device serves as a client or a sync server. As none of the asserted references teach at least limitations directed to the use of role information, as claimed, any combination thereof must also fail to teach such limitations rendering the § 103(a) rejections of the various dependent claims improper.

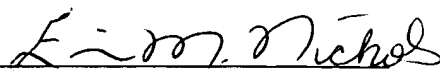
It should be noted that Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner’s statements or conclusions concerning what would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, obvious design choices, common knowledge at the time of Applicant’s invention, officially noticed facts, and the like. Applicant reserves the right to address in detail the Examiner’s characterizations, conclusions, and rejections in future prosecution.

Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (KOLS.061PA) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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